



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2005

## **EVERY PET NEEDS A CHIP ON THE SHOULDER**

### ***County Animal Services Department to Offer Microchipping/Licensing Service on Thursdays***

Beginning Thursday, October 13, dog and cat owners can walk in to any of the three County animal shelters on Thursday afternoons between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to have their pets implanted with microchip identification. There is a one-time fee of \$20 for the microchipping, which includes national registration.

Dogs over 4 months of age must be licensed in order to be microchipped. Rabies vaccinations and dog licenses can be obtained at the same time as the microchipping.

"Microchipping offers added security for lost pets," said Pam Slater-Price, Board of Supervisors' Chairwoman. "Some pet ID tags become damaged and impossible to read, and collars or tags can become detached. A microchip is a form of permanent identification and a means of ensuring that lost pets can be reunited with their owners."

The County Department of Animal Services recommends that owners help protect their pets with both external and internal identification. The majority of lost dogs and cats found without identification are never reunited with their owners.

"As we've seen with Hurricane Katrina and our own local firestorm in 2003, pets can become separated from their owners during a disaster," said Dawn Danielson, director of the County Department of Animal Services. "In addition, many pets panic during thunderstorms or other loud events. To seek safety from the noise, some pets will dig under, climb over or break through gates, screens, fences, windows or doors and may end up miles from home. Ensuring your pet can always be identified is a part of preparing for an emergency."

In order to obtain a microchip, dogs and cats must be at least 8 weeks of age and restrained by a leash or in a carrier. The County's three animal shelters are located in Carlsbad, Bonita and the Linda Vista area of San Diego. For specific locations and more information on the County Department of Animal Services, visit [www.sddac.com](http://www.sddac.com).

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